

Exhibit A
Cities Addressing Fines and Fees Equitably
CAFFE Initiative
People and Pets Assistance Program Statement

The City of Dallas is using the assistance of NLC Cities Addressing Fines and Fees Equitably (CAFFE) Initiative Grant Fund to focus on address inequities in Dallas Animal Services' (DAS) animal fines and fees. As the City is committed to helping eliminate the racial wealth gap in Dallas, it is important to address the impact of fines and fees on communities. Through the Dallas Cities and Counties for Fine and Fee Justice (CCFFJ) cohort it was identified Dallas Animal Service fees as a top 3 fine issued affecting residents. As a result of the work of CAFFE Dallas Cohort, the City has been able to leverage data and preliminary findings. Initial data analysis indicated that 42% of non-payment citations came from five main zip codes: 75216(5), 75211(4), 75241(4), 75212(3), and 75217(3).

The Dallas Cohort used that data and cross-referenced it with other vital City tools such as our Equity Impact Assessment Tool (Score) to see that these zip codes have been assigned compound scores of 3, 4, or 5, which have been identified as areas of greatest-need based on race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, and in this case, have a higher instance of receiving civil citations. The findings could indicate the burnout, due to the disparate impact, that occurs in communities in which nonpayment may not be related to lack of compliance but instead lack of ability to pay, particularly to those with repeated offenses which can double or triple fines. The implementation grant assists in working with residents on the spectrum of getting a fine and fee, which include, those that have one violation or have accumulated multiple violations.

These efforts address two main of the Big Audacious Goals related to Justice and Government by informing the public, eliminating barriers, creating communication bridges, and creating tools of engagement.

Program Purpose: the CAFFE project seeks to increase racial equity and economic mobility for residents by helping cities mitigate the often-harmful impacts of fines and fees on residents' financial health. With support from and in collaboration with JPMorgan Chase Foundation, NLCI's CAFFE initiative aspired to improve the financial stability of residents who are at risk of losing income and assets, and (re)entering the judicial system due to unpaid debt to city governments. Municipal leaders have seen the devastating economic impacts that court debt can have on low-income residents, particularly residents of color. Local governments historically have turned to municipal fines and fees to fill budget gaps, despite many residents' inability to pay these debts.

Grant Award and Use of Funds: CAFFE Initiative budget provides the City grant funding in the amounts of \$10,000.00 to acquire consulting services to address fines and fees review with equity-informed lenses; and \$30,000.00 to address the impacts of Animal At Large fines and fees on residents for the period February 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024. Funds shall be used solely for the purpose and goals stated herein and in accordance with the budget submitted by the City and approved by NLCI for activities for the term of this grant. Allowable uses of funds include but are not limited to expenses associated with core personnel or consultant costs; support for data collection and analysis; stakeholder engagement with community organizations, residents, and other partners; consultants for planning; incentives for resident engagement such as gift cards or food; costs associated with implementation of action plan; and other uses as approved by NLCI.